



Confederation of Indian Industry

125 Years: 1895-2020

# COVID 19

## Updates, Notifications and Advisories

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<http://www.ciicovid19update.in>

### News Update

#### Telephone Conversation between PM and President of the Maldives

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a telephone conversation today with H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Maldives. The leaders updated each other about the current state of COVID-19 infections in their countries. They expressed satisfaction that the coordination modalities agreed between SAARC countries were being implemented actively. Prime Minister was happy to hear that the Indian medical team deployed earlier to Maldives, and the essential medicines gifted by India, had contributed towards controlling the spread of the infection in the islands. Appreciating the special challenges that the pandemic poses for a tourism-dependent economy like the Maldives, Prime Minister assured the Maldivian President of continued Indian support for minimising the health and economic impact of COVID-19.

#### India and Afghanistan will combat COVID-19 together, with solidarity and shared resolve says Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today said India and Afghanistan will combat COVID-19 together, with solidarity and shared resolve. PM Modi was responding to a tweet from Afghanistan President Dr. Ashraf Ghani, who expressed his gratitude towards India for providing essential medicines hydroxychloroquine, paracetamol and other items to Afghanistan. Replying to the Afghanistan President, Prime Minister Modi in a tweet said, "India and Afghanistan share a special friendship, based on ties of history, geography, and culture. For long, we have fought jointly against the scourge of terrorism. We will similarly combat COVID-19 together, with solidarity and shared resolve".

#### Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman's Foundation (MISK) launches campaign to encourage growth amid lockdown

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman's Foundation (MISK) launches campaign to encourage growth amid lockdown "Never Disconnect," an online campaign launched by the MISK Foundation, is set to encourage people to continue learning despite the obstacles they face due during the COVID-19 lockdown. The campaign offers a package of initiatives, programs and challenges to make the most of opportunities, according to the webpage of the campaign. The campaign includes a set of professional development initiatives made available for all and to specially target fresh graduates as well as Misk Academy graduates, helping them to find job opportunities by conducting a virtual career fair to help them connect with employers and Misk partners.



### **World Bank to launch COVID-19 emergency programs in over 100 countries by end of April**

The World Bank Group (WBG) is expected to launch health emergency programs in over 100 countries to support the fight against COVID-19 with 64 already in operation. President David Malpass has said that the WBG will work to deploy as much as 160 billion US dollars over the next 15 months, tailored to the nature of health, economic and social shocks that countries are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **AIB doubles COVID-29 crisis response to 10 billion US Dollars.**

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is doubling available funds under its COVID-19 crisis recovery facility due to high client demand. AIIB is currently reviewing projects from several of its members, many in collaboration with other multilateral development banks. The project includes a 500-Million-dollar project in India to purchase equipment and detection capacity and strengthen its national health systems.

### **IMF, World Bank urge countries to keep trade open amid COVID-19 Pandemic**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) have called on countries to keep trade open as the world battles the COVID-19 pandemic warning that exports control on medical supplies and other essential items could backfire.

### **1,000 foreign firms mull production in India, 300 actively pursue plan as 'Exit China' mantra grows**

India is being seen as an alternate manufacturing hub by over 1000 firms have taken up their proposals across various levels of the government, including central government departments, Indian missions abroad and state industry departments. 300 of these are actively pursuing production plans in mobiles, electronics, medical devices, textiles

### **China slams India's move to scrutinise FDI, calls it discriminatory**

China has protested India's new changes to the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy that mandate government approval for all investments by neighbouring countries, including China. Two days earlier, India effectively closed the 'automatic route' of investing for Chinese firms and individuals. An increasing amount of funds had recently started to flow into the start-up, e-commerce and digital sectors in recent years through the route. As of December 2019, China's cumulative investment in India has exceeded eight billion US dollars, far more than the total investments of India's other border-sharing countries.

### **G20 Health Ministers Meeting at Saudi Arabia deliberates on steps to control COVID-19**

Forge cooperation and mutually respectful and useful collaborations to deal with COVID-19 disease, said Dr. Harsh Vardhan during the Video Conference of the Health Ministers of G20 countries, an international forum for the governments of 19 countries and the European Union (EU). The 19-member countries of G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Russian



Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America and India. Dr. Harsh Vardhan expressed India's commitment in working together with all member states during these testing times. He further added that there are signs of stability in India as Doubling Rate improves from 3.4 days to 7.2

### Japan's exports sink in March as pandemic hits major markets India and Afghanistan will combat COVID-19 together, with solidarity and shared resolve says PM

Japan's exports sank 11.7% in March as the coronavirus pandemic slammed auto shipments to the U.S. and China, its two biggest markets. The Finance Ministry said that exports to the U.S. fell 16.5% in March from a year earlier, while those to China declined 8.7%. Trade has stalled recently due to travel restrictions and shutdowns aimed at curbing the outbreak of the coronavirus. The outlook is grim, with the International Monetary Fund forecasting the world economy is heading into its worst slowdown since the 1930s' Great Depression.

### Indian Initiative to fight COVID-19; CSIR supports efforts to develop a drug to save lives of critically ill patients suffering from Gram-negative sepsis

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), through its flagship New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) program, has been supporting Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Ahmedabad since 2007 for developing a drug to save lives of critically ill patients suffering from Gram-negative sepsis. This entire development effort (***pre-clinical and clinical studies***) has been supervised by CSIR appointed Monitoring Committee. The drug has been shown to reduce the mortality of critically ill patients by more than half. It also leads to faster recovery of organ dysfunction seen in this condition. It is now approved for marketing in India. It will be available commercially as *Sepsivac*. In Gram-negative sepsis as well as in critically ill COVID-19 patients, there is an altered immune response leading to a massive change in their cytokine profile. The drug modulates the immune system of the body and thereby inhibits the cytokine storm leading to reduced mortality and faster recovery.

### Indian Railways crosses 2 million mark in distribution of free meals; Indian Railway organizations team up to feed hot cooked meals and hope to thousands of people everyday

Distribution of free hot cooked meals by Indian Railways during the national lockdown due to COVID-19 crossed the two million mark today with a total of more than 20.5 lacs. Meals have been distributed during lockdown due to COVID-19 at approximately 300 locations across the country

### Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has taken various steps to contribute in the on-going fight against COVID-19

In wake of COVID-19 threat the Ministry of Human Resource Development is promptly active in this challenging time and has taken several steps to jointly combat COVID-19 by taking preventive and precautionary measures in all academic institutions across the



country. In this regard KVS has taken various steps to contribute in the on-going fight against COVID- 19. Around 80 Kendriya Vidyalays have been assigned to various competent authorities for using them as Quarantine Centres. 32,247 teachers are taking online classes of 7, 07, 312 students through various online platforms Quarantine Centres in KVs. KVS Staff-Teachers and Non-Teaching Staff contributed an amount of Rs. 10,40,60,536/- towards the #PMCARES Fund.

### Lifeline Udan flights cover over 3 lakh km to deliver essential medical cargo to various part of India

Lifeline Udan flights has covered over 3 lakh kilometers of aerial distance to transport around 507.85 tons of essential medical cargo. 301 flights have been operated under Lifeline Udan by Air India, Alliance Air, IAF and private carriers. 'Lifeline Udan' flights are being operated by MoCA to transport essential medical cargo to remote parts of the country to support India's war against COVID-19.

### Over 25,000 COVID 19 related Portal Grievances have been redressed in the last 20 days, beginning from 1st of April: Dr. Jitendra Singh

An exclusive window was introduced for COVID related grievances in the National Monitoring Dashboard in the grievance portal. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh disclosed that over 25,000 COVID 19 related Portal Grievances have been redressed in the last 20 days, beginning from the 1st of April.

### Under PM-KISAN Scheme Rs. 17,793 crores released for 8.89 crore farmer families during the lockdown

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India has taken several measures to facilitate the farmers and farming activities at field level during the lockdown period. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme during the lockdown period from 24.3.2020 till date, about **8.89 crore** farmer families have been benefitted and an amount of **Rs. 17,793 crore** has been released so far. Additionally, in order to provide food security during the prevailing situation due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has decided to distribute pulses to the eligible households under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PM-GKY).

### Road Ministry launched dashboard containing list of Dhabas and Truck Repair Shops on its website

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has created a dashboard link on its website for providing list and details of Dhabas and Truck repair shops available across the country by various organisations like NHAI, States, Oil Marketing companies. This is intended to facilitate the truck / cargo drivers and cleaners in their movement while traveling between different places of the country for delivering required goods in the present challenging times of lockdown announced to curb Covid-19 pandemic. A regular



contact is being maintained with various stake holders particularly States/UTs, Oil Marketing Companies(OMCs), etc in providing information which is then updated on the dashboard link on MoRTH website.

### **Union HRD Minister chairs the review meeting on SWAYAM and SWAYAM Prabha in New Delhi**

Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' held a detailed review of the National online education platform SWAYAM and the 32 DTH Television Education Channels SWAYAM PRABHA in New Delhi. A brief presentation of the progress of these schemes was made. In the lockdown condition there has been a tremendous increase in demand and the usage of SWAYAM Courses and SWAYAM PRABHA videos.

### **Updates on COVID-19**

Government of India is taking several steps along with the States/UTs for prevention, containment and management of COVID-19. These are being regularly reviewed and monitored at the highest level. In line with the guidelines issued for 20th April, 2020 by Ministry of Home Affairs for the functioning of Government offices, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has advised its officers and officials to take precautionary measures in containing the spread of the virus. The doubling rate of COVID-19 for the week before lockdown was 3.4 and has improved to 7.5 as on 19th April 2020. 18 States have shown improvement in doubling rate as compared to the national average.

### **New US unemployment claims top 5 Million**

Efforts to curb the spread of Coronavirus with stay-at -home orders continue to slash through the US labour market as an additional 5.245 million Americans last week filed first-time jobless claims. The latest unemployment filings boost the total to about 22 million, nearly erasing all the job gains made since the great recession sparked the collapse of the subprime mortgage market in 2008. Prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, the US unemployment rate was 3.5 percent. Its now about 15 percent.

### **Coal and Mines PSUs extending best possible support in fighting Covid-19; NALCO and MCL to fund two dedicated Covid-19 hospitals in Odisha**

National Aluminum Company (NALCO) and Coal India subsidiary Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) will fully fund two dedicated COVID-19 hospitals in Odisha inaugurated by Shri Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister, Odisha along with Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Union Minister of Coal & Mines Shri Pralhad Joshi through Video Conferencing. The hospitals started by Government of Odisha will be run with the help of different medical hospitals of the state.



**DBT-BIRAC call on COVID-19 Research Consortium; Proposals sought on development of diagnostics, vaccines, therapeutics and other interventions 16 proposals have been recommended for funding support**

Department of Biotechnology and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council had invited applications on COVID-19 Research Consortium. The first phase of the call ended on 30th March 2020 and around 500 applications were received from academia and Industry. The multi-tiered review process is ongoing and till date 16 proposals of devices, diagnostics, vaccine candidates, therapeutics and other interventions have been recommended for receiving funding support.

**District administrations and Gram Panchayats across the country responding with various activities to check the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country**

District administrations and Gram Panchayats across the country are responding with various activities to check the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. Various actions being taken include formation of advisory committees; wall paintings to create awareness about the disease; local stitching and distribution of masks; free distribution of cooked meals/ rations to the needy; and sanitization of public spaces.

**IAF'S Support Towards Fight Against Covid-19**

Indian Air Force continues its active support to the nation in the fight against COVID-19. IAF has mobilised its Transport and Rotary Wing aircraft along with the necessary support infrastructure to create and maintain 'air-bridges' between nodal supply bases and recipient locations across the country. IAF has undertaken transportation of medical supplies including PPE, testing kits, sanitization material and associated equipment along with the movement by air of medical personnel.

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## Central Advisories and Notifications

**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Advisory against spraying of disinfectant on people for COVID-19 management.**

With the purpose to examine the merit of using disinfectants as spray over human body to disinfect them from COVID-19, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued advisory against spraying of disinfectant on people for COVID-19 management.

**Indian Council of Medical Research: Regional Depots for storage and transportation of COVID kits.**

To meet the increased requirement of testing material with increasing number of tests, a total of 16 regional depots are being set up and are modelled into self-contained units by strengthening manpower, resources and infrastructure. Besides 16 Regional Depots; Depots at NIMR, New Delhi and NIV, Pune would also function as Central Depots.



## **Central Government constitutes 6 Inter-Ministerial Teams to make assessment of situation and augment State efforts to fight and contain spread of COVID-19 effectively**

The Centre has constituted 6 Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs), two each for West Bengal and Maharashtra and one each for Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to make on-spot assessment of situation and issue necessary directions to State Authorities for its redressal and submit their report to Central Government in larger interest of general public. Situation is serious in Indore (MP), Mumbai and Pune (Maharashtra), Jaipur (Rajasthan) and Kolkata, Howrah, Medinipur East, 24 Parganas North, Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Jalpaiguri in West Bengal. IMCTs would focus on complaints of implementation of lockdown measures as per guidelines, supply of essential commodities, social distancing, preparedness of health infrastructure, safety of health professionals and conditions of the relief camps for labour and poor people.

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## **State Advisories and Notifications**

### **Government of Haryana: Implementation of Consolidated revised guidelines for containment of COVID-19.**

The Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Government of Haryana has written to all Administrative Secretaries, Divisional and Deputy Commissioners of the State for implementation of the Consolidated revised guidelines for containment of COVID-19, earlier issued by Ministry of Home Affairs.

### **Government of Telangana: Stringent lockdown measures till 7 May 2020 in the State**

In view of prevention and containment of COVID-19 pandemic, the State Government has issued orders for extending lockdown in the State till 7 May 2020. During this extended lockdown no religious places shall be open for public and e-commerce companies and app based online platforms shall not deliver cooked food.

**[Click here to download the complete document](#)**